

12  
of the pressing element are approximately equal in width, and wherein the front portion is slightly bulged with respect to the rear portion. --

A copy of the marked up amended claim is attached to this response showing the changes as set forth in amended 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

• **REMARKS**

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Claims 5-8 are added. Support for the added claims is found in the specification. No new matter is added.

Applicant gratefully appreciates the Office Action's indication that claims 2-4 are allowed. However, in view of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicant respectfully submit that all of pending claims 1-8 contain allowable subject matter.

CLAIMS 1-8 CONTAIN PATENTABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Toyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,930,223). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, Applicant respectfully submits that Toyama does not disclose or suggest a disc changer in a disc player having a storing means for storing a plurality of discs in the disc arrangement direction, a disc drawing means for drawing a selected disc from a disc storing means to a reproducing position within a disc player, a transporting means for transporting a disc drawing means in a disc arrangement direction, wherein the transporting means comprises moving members in a direction perpendicular to the disc arrangement direction such that with the movement of the moving members, the disc drawing means can be moved to a height corresponding to a position of the selected disc, wherein a plurality of disc draw-out preventing means,

each having a disc draw-out preventing position and a release position, are arranged in the disc arrangement direction corresponding to a plurality of discs stored in the disc storing means and wherein the moving members has releasing portions capable of positioning only the disc draw-out preventing element corresponding to the selected disc at the release position, as recited in Applicant's independent claim 1.

Toyama is directed to a disc tray mechanism that prevents the inadvertent springing out of the disc or tray where the magazine is mounted. A lock member 41 that is vertically movable contains projecting portions 41a provided at intervals approximately equal to the disc stacking intervals in a magazine 50. See col. 6, lines 9-22, for example. The lock member 41 is lifted up by releasing a slider 21, enabling groove portions 41b to face the disc and/or trays 56. See col. 7, lines 29-38, Figs. 2-3 and 6-7, for example. When a disc is selected, the disc and/or tray 56 is drawn out through the groove portion 41b of the lock member 41. See col. 9, lines 44-51, for example.

However, as indicated in Toyama's Fig. 10, when one tray 56 is drawn outwardly in a direction shown by arrow B, all other discs will trend to move in the same direction to the grooves 41b corresponding to other trays 56. Therefore, it is apparent that Toyama discloses that all the locked trays are released.

In contrast, Applicants' claimed invention permits only a selected disc to be released. Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Toyama does not disclose or suggest the features recited in Applicants' claimed invention.

Claims 5-8 depend from claim 1. Therefore, for at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35

U.S.C. §102(e), and to the extent applicable to added claims 5-8.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that, in addition to allowed claims 2-4, claims 1 and 5-8 of this application are also in condition for allowance.


Favorable consideration and prompt allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to Counsel's Deposit Account 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

Arent Fox Kintner Plotkin & Kahn

  
Jonathan A. Kidney  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 46,195

Customer No. 004372  
1050 Connecticut Ave. NW  
Suite 400  
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339  
Tel: (202) 857-6481  
Fax: (202) 638-4810

JAK:ksm

Enclosures: Marked-Up Copy of Amended Claim

**MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIM**

1. (Once Amended) A disc changer for use in a disc player[, said disc changer including] comprising:

a disc storing means for storing a plurality of discs [arranged] in a [predetermined] disc arrangement direction[.];

a disc drawing means for drawing a selected disc from the disc storing means to a reproducing position within the disc player[.];

a transporting means for transporting the disc drawing means in the disc arrangement direction[, so that the selected disc drawn from the disc storing means can be reproduced in the reproducing position],

wherein the transporting means comprises moving member(s) [driven by a motor so as to be] movable in a direction perpendicular to the disc arrangement direction, [in a manner] such that with the movement of the moving member(s), the disc drawing means can be moved to a height corresponding to a position of the selected disc;

wherein a plurality of disc draw-out preventing elements, each having a disc draw-out preventing position and a released position, are arranged in the disc arrangement direction corresponding to a plurality of discs stored in the disc storing means[, each disc draw-out preventing element is adapted to be in either a disc draw-out preventing position or a released position]; and

wherein the moving [member] member(s) has releasing portion(s) capable of positioning only the [one] disc draw-out preventing element corresponding to the selected disc at [a] the released position[, said disc draw-out preventing element being located at a height of a selected disc at which the disc drawing means has arrived].